

MESSAGE FROM THE PROGRAM SPONSOR

DEEPWATER SPONSORS' PERSPECTIVE

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The National Security Mandate: The figure below reflects current and future threats facing America through the year 2020. In deploying the National Strategy for Homeland Security to counter these threats, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) must execute well

planned, intelligence-driven operations with the right assets with the right capability – and in the maritime region that means Coast Guard.

The Strategic Vision: The Coast Guard's Integrated Deepwater System (IDS) re-capitalization plan is designed to provide the



network centric, intra- and interoperable force mix capable of defending the homeland, projecting outward the deterrence, detection and interdiction necessary to remove the threat from our shores while preserving the safety at sea so vital to our nation's maritime commerce. The Coast Guard must transition from a primary "response" mode to a more proactive "presence" to meet the myriad threats against our nation.

Maritime Domain Awareness – A Key

Enabler: Critical to the Coast Guard's ability to target its Deepwater assets with timely precision is the development of actionable intelligence that differentiates between the millions of vessels that travel the world's oceans every day and the anomalies that pose threats to the Homeland. The current IDS proposal significantly enhances this capability through development of a common operational picture that links Deepwater and non-Deepwater Coast Guard assets and shore-based command centers to inter-agency, DHS, and Coast Guard intelligence fusion centers. Thus Deepwater will provide the backbone for establishment of a comprehensive intra- and inter-agency information, intelligence, and knowledge based network that will give DHS the ability to put the right number of assets in the right place at the right time to detect, track, deter, and interdict both active and passive threats.

9/11 Impacts and A New Normalcy: As sound

as the current Deepwater proposal is, it is based on an operational capability, effectiveness, and funding baseline established five years ago.

Much has changed! Regrettably, the block obsolescence predicted five years ago is upon us now, and it is accelerating apace. The material condition of the vast majority of our operational assets is far worse than originally forecast in 1998, as evidenced by recent 378-foot WHEC turbine failures, 110-foot WPB hull failures, and HH-65 in-flight engine power loss. Additionally, the events of September 11, 2001 resulted in emergent and emerging homeland security mission demands that were unforeseen. New requirements along the Maritime Boundary Line and in the drug transit zone are also emerging. Finally, the Coast Guard finds itself in the enviable position of becoming the force provider of choice within the new Department of Homeland Security. The combination of these events forces us to update our Deepwater capability replacement plan in order to achieve the new normalcy the Coast Guard now strives to maintain.